

Message Text

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TAGS: BEXP EALR EIND UR
SUBJECT: MINISTER OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY VISITS U.S.
PAVILION AT ELEKTRO '77

REF: MOSCOW 8748

1. MINISTER OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY, ALEKSEY K. ANTONOV, VISITED U.S. PAVILION AT ELEKTRO '77 ON SUNDAY, JUNE 19, FOR CONDUCTED TOUR OF SEVERAL U.S. STANDS (WESTINGHOUSE, G.E., PHELPS-DODGE, GOULD, HIPOTRONICS, CROUSE-HINDS, BACHI, COIL-WINDING AND INTERMAGNETICS GENERAL) WHICH LASTED NEARLY ONE HOUR.

2. IN SHORT DISCUSSION WITH COMATT AND DEPDIR, USCO, FOLLOWING TOUR, MINISTER ANTONOV INDICATED THAT HE HAD HOPED TO SEE MORE U.S. FIRMS PARTICIPATING AT ELEKTRO THAN WERE IN FACT PRESENT. IN RESPONSE TO COMATT'S QUESTION, ANTONOV SAID THAT SOVIET PLANS FOR EXPANDING OUTPUT OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY WERE, LIKE THOSE OF MOST COUNTRIES AROUND WORLD, LARGE AND AMBITIOUS. ON US/USSR TRADE PROBLEMS, HE NOTED BRIEFLY THAT EVEN
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 08840 201521Z

THOUGH U.S. FIRMS IN ELECTRICAL GENERATING EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY POSSESSED SOME OF WORLD'S HIGHEST TECHNOLOGY, CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WOULD LEAD USSR TO DO MUCH OF ITS PURCHASING FROM THIRD COUNTRIES. COMATT NOTED THAT APPEARANCE OF NINETEEN LEADING MANUFACTURERES OF EQUIPMENT AT ELEKTRO WAS AN INDICATION OF SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THESE FIRMS, AND U.S. GOVERNMENT, VIEWED DOING BUSINESS WITH USSR

OVER LONG HAUL. ANTONOV SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT AND
VOICED STANDARD SOVIET LINE THAT FOR KINDS OF PROJECTS
IN WHICH HIS MINISTRY BECAME INVOLVED ONLY FIRMS ON SCALE
OF SOME U.S. COMPANIES WERE IN A POSITION PROPERLY TO
INTERFACE WITH THEIR SOVIET COUNTERPARTS. ANTONOV SAID
THAT FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW THERE WERE MANY POSSIBILITIES
FOR U.S. ELECTRICAL GENERATING FIRMS TO DO BUSINESS IN
THE USSR.

3. BIOGRAPHIC: ANTONOV IMPRESSED US AS A KEEN AND
ALERT MAN, ONE WHOSE TECHNICAL COMPETENCE WAS AT LEAST
EQUAL AND PROBABLY SUPERIOR TO THAT OF MOST HIGH-LEVEL
SOVIET OFFICIALS. HIS QUESTIONS TO U.S. EXHIBITORS
DISPLAYED A CLOSE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS INDUSTRY AND OF SOME
OF THE LATEST WESTERN ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY AND
EQUIPMENT. ON WESTINGHOUSE STAND, FOR INSTANCE, HE
FOCUSSED HIS QUESTIONS ON THAT FIRM'S RESEARCH EFFORTS
IN FIELD OF NUCLEAR POWER ENGINEERING AND DID NOT SEEM
BAFFLED OR NON-PLUSED BY HIGHLY TECHNICAL RESPONSES OF
WESTINGHOUSE PHD RESEARCH SPECIALIST. ON CONTRARY,
THEY ONLY SPURRED MORE QUESTIONS FROM HIM. ON GOULD
STAND HE WAS MOST INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THAT FIRM'S
STATE-OF-THE-ART (LONG-LIFE) ELECTRICAL BATTERY
PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY WHERE THESE HAD APPLICATION IN
AUTOMOTIVE, TELEPHONE AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES.
ABOUT 55, ANTONOV APPEARS IN PEAK OF HEALTH, ENERGETIC
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 08840 201521Z

AND CLEAR-HEADED. A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL
VOLUNTERED TO COMATT THAT ANTONOV WAS HIGHLY RESPECTED
WITHIN HIS INDUSTRY. AS FAR AS WE COULD TELL, ANTONOV
DOES NOT SPEAK NOR UNDERSTAND ENGLISH.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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